

reap the benefits of the works of Elouise Cobell.

I am also a proud member of the Native American Caucus. Elouise Cobell's dedication and courage is not just an inspiration to Native Americans, but to all Americans. Her work will not only benefit American Indians now, but also the generations that follow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell.

IN HONOR OF DEACONESS MATTIE
LEE DIXON DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Deaconess Mattie Lee Dixon Davis didn't arrive in New York City until she was 39 but still she has lived here for 61 years and is celebrating her 100th birthday today.

She was born in Alabama on April 11, 1911 to Willie and Elar Dixon who had a farm in McWilliams. After graduating from Conecuh County Training School she married the Reverend Albert A. Davis, II who was pastor to many of the leading African Methodist Episcopal Churches. He served as Presiding Elder of Troy and then joined the larger Ozark District where Mrs. Dixon served as District Adviser of the Women's Missionary for nine years.

She worked as a substitute teacher in public schools and thanks to her earlier training she was seamstress and hairdresser to her family, her church family, and to her friends and neighbors.

In May, 1950, Rev. Dixon came to the St. Luke A.M.E. Church in New York City's Sugar Hill neighborhood where for 16 years Mrs. Dixon served as Advisor to the Missionary Society and President of the Women's Club. The Missionary Society became so large that she reorganized it into five 'circles,' a structure that continues to this day.

Missionary work was always her main interest and she held several statewide offices in the New York Conference Branch Missionary Society including Second Vice President for three years, and Treasurer for eight years. She also served as President of the New York A.M.E. Ministers Wives and Widowers Alliance and Secretary of the Interdenominational Ministers Wives and Widows Alliance.

She and the Rev. Dixon moved to St. Steven Community A.M.E. Church where the Rev. Dixon served until he died 16 years later.

Her ambition was always to become a nurse, but raising their five children and missionary work made that impossible. But several years ago she helped a friend, a nurse, operate a 'House of Love' where patients discharged from hospitals, but too ill to go home, stayed. Here she not only helped with the daily care and feeding of these gravely ill people, but learned how to give medications and to handle injections. She was finally nursing, helping people in this hospice precursor.

Around this time she was consecrated a Deaconess at the Allen Cathedral A.M.E. Church by Bishop Franklin Norris.

I join her community in honoring this wonderful woman who gave a century of love and good works to the world. We are blessed to have her.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN A.
GIRGENTI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American and public servant, Senator John A. Girgenti, who will be recognized on Monday, October 24, 2011 for his many years of service to his community and to New Jersey's Legislature.

John A. Girgenti was born in Paterson on August 8, 1947. He attended Hawthorne High School then continued on to Seton Hall University. After receiving a B.A. degree in Political Science, cum laude, in 1969, he completed his M.A. in Government and Public Administration from St. John's University.

Senator Girgenti was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1977, and re-elected six times. While in the Assembly he served as Chairman of the Municipal Government Committee and Deputy Majority Leader. As an Assemblyman, John sponsored legislation that created the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, successfully imposing the first "tax on crime."

In March of 1990, John Girgenti was chosen by district Democrats to fill the State Senate seat left vacant by the death of Frank X. Graves, Jr. He was sworn into the Senate on April 5th and was elected to his first full-term in the Senate on November 5, 1991. Since then he has been re-elected five times.

During his time in the legislature Senator Girgenti has sponsored many important pieces of legislation that have become law. He was one of the first State Senators to call for enhanced fingerprinting requirements for state employees involved with domestic security following the attacks on 9/11. Senator Girgenti has also fought to update and modernize New Jersey's background check laws so municipalities can identify potential threats before it is too late.

Following the Seton Hall University dormitory fire in 2000 Senator Girgenti was instrumental in putting forth legislation that mandates and provides funding for sprinkler installation in New Jersey college dormitories. He has also sponsored other landmark legislative measures that include Megan's Law, Amber Alert and the Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone Program. The Senator spearheaded the reinstatement of the Paterson Motor Vehicle Agency and was the momentum behind it's reopening in 2008.

In response to the growing gang problem in New Jersey, Senator Girgenti has helped formulate pragmatic legislative solutions to eliminate criminal street gangs. He formed a "Gang Task Force" in 2006 composed of experts from government, law enforcement, education, local clergy and recreation to review and evaluate legislative measures aimed at circumventing gang activity.

The Senator has also fought to create the State Public Safety Interoperable Communications Coordinating Council, which would allow first responders (police, firefighters and emergency workers) to communicate between agencies on a single assigned radio frequency. Senator Girgenti also pushed for increased aid to the New Jersey National Guard.

Senator Girgenti is currently the Chairman of the Law & Public Safety Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the Senate Transportation Committee. On April 5, 2011 Senator Girgenti announced that he will not seek re-election to the Senate in 2011. His leadership in the state will be missed by his colleagues and his constituency.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like John Girgenti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, John's wife Rose, their family and friends, the members of the New Jersey State Legislature and me in recognizing John A. Girgenti's outstanding service to his community and the entire State of New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR
EDMUND W. GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Professor Edmund W. Gordon is among the most distinguished behavioral pedagogical scientists in the United States and one of the very few in the world to hold two endowed Ivy League professorships at Columbia and Yale universities.

More directly related to my Congressional District, he is Senior Scholar in Residence at State University of New York Rockland Community College as well as at the College Board.

His distinguished career encompasses not only professorial practices but scholarship, clinical and counseling psychology, research, author, editor, and minister. Besides Columbia and Yale, he has held appointments at Howard and Harvard Universities.

He has written text books that are considered classics in their field, as well as more than 200 articles in scholarly journals and he is still going in his eighties. He and his wife, Dr. Susan Gordon, have lived in Rockland County for more than 55 years and with whom he co-founded CEJES Institute and Conference Center in Pomona. Their four children attended the local Ramapo schools and both parents were very active in the PTA, school board elections, and other community matters.

Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for his seemingly unending contributions to society. As a former teacher I join with HUAA in congratulating Dr. Gordon for these contributions which have advanced education in our society over the course of generations.

HONORING PHYLLIS MARINO FOR
HER INVALUABLE CONTRI-
BUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to my dear friend, Phyllis Marino, as she is honored by the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee with one of their 2011 Women's Leadership Awards. Phyllis has been a mainstay of the New Haven political arena for as long as I can remember and today her many contributions will be recognized with this very special award.

Each year, in the spirit of the late Governor Ella Grasso, the Democratic State Central Committee selects ten women whose extraordinary leadership and contributions have made a difference in their communities. The annual Women's Leadership Awards celebrate the innumerable ways in which women, through their work in the political arena, have helped to shape our communities.

The letter nominating Phyllis for consideration said it best—"In life, never mind in politics, you meet very few people who do what they do every day because they believe in a cause and not to benefit themselves—a person who truly gives of themselves with no expectation in return. She is also a person of conviction . . . and her word is her bond no matter what the consequences." I could not describe Phyllis better than that.

Her involvement in the New Haven community came at a very young age. Like so many of us, Phyllis learned the value of community service at the feet of her parents. She stuffed envelopes, campaigned door-to-door, and made thousands of phone calls on behalf of candidates and issues. As a young adult, she was charged with managing headquarters and political operations throughout the city. Phyllis earned the most distinguished of reputations and for many years she has been the one that newcomers turn to when they want to get involved. She has guided countless young people to success and has served as an inspiration to them all.

Her history with city of New Haven, its residents, and the many changes they have witnessed over the years makes Phyllis an invaluable resource to anyone who wants to get involved in New Haven's political arena. I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Phyllis. I have known Phyllis most of my life—our fathers were good friends and worked together in the community. Phyllis has long been one that I can always count on for support and encouragement. People often invoke the phrase "I stand on the shoulders of giants"—for me one of those giants is Phyllis Marino.

I am proud to join her son and daughter-in-law, Pat and Pam; her daughter, Andrea; grandson, Gennaro; and all of those who have gathered today to congratulate Phyllis Marino as she receives this well-deserved recognition.

IN HONOR OF DR. SUSAN S.
GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Susan S. Gordon has, for more than 50 years, lived and has been active in Pomona where she and her husband, Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, raised four children and where she was active in her school district, her community and as a pediatrician.

She graduated from the Howard University College of Medicine and is a Licentiate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She was also named an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, initially at New York Medical College and then at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. From 1978 to 1981 she was a member of the National Panel on the Measurement of the Program Effects of Head Start.

For eight years she served on the Board of Education of the East Ramapo Central School District, where, for three years, she was also president. She also served, for 20 years, on the board of the Lexington School for the Deaf where the Health Center was named in her honor. She added to her humane service resume by travelling to West Africa for four summers to train workers in providing educational and health services and in Nicaragua she trained local people in family planning and child health maintenance.

Both she and her husband are in the Rockland County Hall of Fame. Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for their life's work and outstanding contributions to society. I join with HUAA in honoring Dr. Gordon for her outstanding record of accomplishment, in Rockland and Westchester and throughout the world.

IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN J.
AREIAS' 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th birthday of Mr. John J. Areias, a respected leader, distinguished dairyman, and wonderful father, grandfather, and friend. His contributions to our community have been immeasurable and have made the San Joaquin Valley a better place to live.

John J. Areias was born on April 27, 1921 to Jesse Areias and Genevieve Silva Areias, who emigrated to the United States from Portugal's Azore Islands. John, his parents, and eight siblings settled in Volta, California, where they operated a small dairy. A proud product of the Central Valley, John graduated from Volta Elementary School as the valedictorian and then Los Banos High School, where he was a part of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and served as Senior Class President.

As a young man, John's passion for agriculture was evident. In high school, he traveled with the FFA to the International World Fair in Treasure Island and to the California

State Fair to show cattle. It was also at this time that he met the love of his life, Mary, whom he later married. One of John's fondest memories is driving his future bride around in his 1939 Plymouth Deluxe Rumble Seat Convertible.

Soon thereafter, John and Jess, his brother, went into the dairy business. Their pioneering spirit made them innovators in the dairy industry; their dairy was the first Grade A dairy in the Los Banos Dairymen's Association. Eventually, John and Jess became the operators of one of the largest dairies in California, shipping approximately 150 cans of milk every day. Despite their massive success, their dairy operation remained a family business at heart—their children would often ride along in the milk truck during deliveries. John's success allowed him the opportunity to operate ranches throughout the west side of Merced County, California, which included 6,000 acres of land and 4,500 head of cattle.

Through all of his professional endeavors, John has found time to serve his community. A devout Catholic, he served as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he was active in the Portuguese Fraternal Order. His consistent involvement in our community makes him an invaluable asset to the people of the Central Valley.

John's wife, Mary passed away in 1980 after a brave battle with cancer. Together they have four wonderful children: Marcia, Lucia, Kathleen, and Rusty, all of who have accomplished great things. John is also the proud grandfather to Evan, Nina, Bianca, Alexis, and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank John for his wonderful contributions to our Valley. His commitment to family, community leadership, and hard work is admirable and makes him a role model for our entire community. I join the rest of John's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in years to come.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM GONZALEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is such an integral part of so many lives in our communities that it is with some sadness that I congratulate William Gonzalez, the Operations Supervisor of the West Nyack office on his retirement after 35 years of exemplary service.

He has faithfully served the people in my district for those years, starting as a Claims Development Clerk in the Baychester district office in the Bronx. After a short time, he rose to Claims Representative. He later served as a Field Representative and became an Operations Supervisor in 1989. He was reassigned to the West Nyack, NY district office in 1996 and established himself, over many years, as a liaison for a number of community and social agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Housing and Urban Development and as a contact for law enforcement in Rockland County.

He received many performance awards throughout his career including recognition for his pivotal role in the Region's Bi-Lingual Interviewing Skills Training initiative and for his